

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 5 and to improve its form. Accordingly, claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 2 has been amended to improve its form. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1, rather than from cancelled claim 5. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-20 will be pending.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kotani et al, U.S. Patent No. 5, 766,751.

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because Kotani et al does not disclose or render obvious the gas barrier laminate film of the present invention.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitation of claim 5. Claim 5 is not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, independent claim 1 as amended and dependent claims 2-4 are believed to be patentable over Kotani et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4 based on Kotani et al are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Iwanaga, U.S. Pre-Grant Publication 2004/0209090.

Iwanaga is prior art solely under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as of its U.S. filing date of January 20, 2004. This date is later in time than Applicants' priority date of March 31, 2003. To remove Iwanaga as prior art against the present claims, Applicants submit herewith a verified English

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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translation of their priority document. Section 112 support for the present claims in the priority document is shown in the following chart:

| Present Claim | Section 112 Support in Priority Document |
|---------------|--|
| 1 | Claim 1 and lines 12-13 at page 5 |
| 2 | Lines 25-29 at page 26 |
| 3 | Claim 3 |
| 4 | Lines 14-16 at page 5 |
| 6 | Claim 2 |
| 7 | Lines 31-32 at page 18 |
| 8 | Lines 5-6 at page 27 |
| 9 | Lines 13-14 at page 27 |
| 10 | Claim 4 |
| 11 | Claim 5 |
| 12 | Claim 6 |
| 13 | Paragraph bridging pages 33 and 34 |
| 14 | Claim 7 |
| 15 | Line 26-27 at page 6 |
| 16 | Lines 28-31 at page 6 |
| 17 | Claim 9 |
| 18 | Claim 8 |
| 19 | Line 34 at page 6 to line 3 at page 7 |

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| Present Claim | Section 112 Support in Priority Document |
|---------------|--|
| 20 | Claims 7 and 10, and paragraph [0012] |

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-20 based on Iwanaga.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/759,139 (which corresponds to U.S. Pre-Grant Publication 2004/0209090 cited in the preceding rejection).

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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